

A Partnership With:



Introduction

The Urban Construction Initiative (UCI) currently has fourteen localities under agreement to administer their entire construction program. The UCI members include the cities of Virginia Beach, Hampton, Richmond, Charlottesville, Harrisonburg, Lynchburg, Colonial Heights, Chesapeake, Newport News and Danville and the towns of Blacksburg, Bridgewater, Purcellville and Dumfries. As there has been invigorated interest in the UCI program from localities across the Commonwealth, Local Assistance Division (LAD) has been meeting with eligible non-UCI localities explaining the benefits and realities of becoming a member.

Program Accomplishments

LAD has continued to hold regular UCI Workgroup Meetings to develop new ways to enhance communication with our municipal counterparts and to streamline project delivery. This group consists of representatives from nine different localities, VDOT District and Central Office Staff, and the FHWA. The group has previously been successful in creating the process outlined below for UCI Certification. In addition to preparing the agendas for the UCI Tri-Annual Meetings, the Workgroup continues to focus efforts on completing goals identified in the UCI Goals Strategic Plan the group approved last year. The intent of these strategic and programmatic goals are focused on increasing efficiency and effectiveness of the UCI. While several of the goals are on-going items, the group did complete three of the nineteen goals in FY13. In order to focus on completing the existing goals, the Workgroup decided not to add any new goals for the coming year. Please see the attached pdf file for the previously established goals.

This year we reached yet another major milestone for the UCI Certification Program as we completed our first annual certification compliance review. Compliance is an important component of the certification process to ensure FHWA and VDOT requirements are met and that the City is given the necessary feedback to improve if deficiencies are found. The UCI Certification Program was approved by the Federal Highway Administration for implementation in late 2009 as an opportunity for qualified UCI participating localities to proceed with delegated authority by VDOT for project administration and development with streamlined VDOT oversight on federal and state funded projects, much like FHWA's oversight of VDOT. Certification places greater responsibility and control over the urban construction program in the hands of the local government. The City of Virginia Beach became the first municipality certified under the UCI Certification Program in November 2011. VDOT continues to work in collaboration with the City of Virginia Beach and the FHWA to further define the project development requirements under certification with the ultimate goal to assure the program offers certified localities with maximum autonomy and project development flexibility while meeting State and Federal requirements.

For the 2013 Satisfaction Survey, the UCI Workgroup included additional questions for this year's survey which focused on project/ program delivery, years of experience, number of projects being managed, UCI direction/progress, meeting frequency, and opportunities to continue to improve communication between localities and VDOT. Responses regarding program satisfaction from both localities and VDOT remained about the same from previous years with 80% saying that the UCI Program is on the right path. The survey was distributed to approximately 60 members of which 30 responded (15 Local and 15 VDOT). The results also clearly indicated that good communication is still occurring between VDOT and the localities but there is still room for improvement. The survey also indicated that the meeting frequency of the full group should change from Tri-Annual to Bi-Annual meeting events.

Similar to last year, the 2013 UCI Annual Meeting was held as a two day event. This year's meeting was hosted by the City of Newport News. In addition to providing resources to share lessons learned, year-end accomplishments, performance metrics, functional classification changes, and items of interest, we also included a full day of training which included presentations on VDOT Systems & External User Access, Design-Build, Public-Private Partnerships, and Civil Rights. Based on feedback in the satisfaction survey, the UCI community will gather in person two times a year in varying locations in lieu of three times. The agenda for the meetings will be established by the UCI Workgroup and will have a three-pronged approach: business session (updates of program interest), information sharing (lessons learned/technical), and progress on a specific programmatic initiative/focus area led by the workgroup. A link to the agendas, meeting minutes, presentations and handouts for all previous UCI Tri-Annual Meetings held since November 2010 can be found at the following link:

<http://www.virginiadot.org/business/local-assistance-firstCities.asp>

Financial Table

As a result of reductions in the urban formula allocations, the commitment of Urban Construction Funds, including reimbursable federal funds and state funds paid directly to the participating municipalities in their quarterly payment have diminished since 2009. The total financial commitment is shown in the table in Attachment A. With the General Assembly passing the FY13 transportation bill (HB2313), the additional funding for transportation will free up allocations to potentially funnel back through the urban formula beginning in FY17. Additional information regarding VDOT's Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP) can be found at the following link: <http://syip.virginiadot.org/Pages/allProjects.aspx>

Goals for Fiscal Year 2014

- Further define the project delivery requirements for the UCI Certification Program.
- Provide training and development opportunities to enhance local and VDOT competencies, reduce risk, and improve oversight.
- Continue to seek ways to streamline project delivery and oversight.
- Incorporate the UCI Project Development requirements into the Local Administered Projects (LAP) Manual.
- Facilitate developing and implementing the UCI Strategic Plan.

Long Term Vision / Goals

- Continue the VDOT shift to a stewardship and oversight role – much like FHWA

Attachment A:

URBAN CONSTRUCTION INITIATIVE									
Fiscal Year 2013 Financial Summary									
	CITY / TOWN	URBAN CONSTRUCTION ALLOCATIONS		PREVIOUS FUNDING on ACTIVE PROJECTS		PAST PROJECT RECONCILIATION		ANNUAL TOTALS	
		FEDERAL FUNDS (for Reimbursement)	STATE FUNDS (Quarterly Payment)	FEDERAL FUNDS (for Reimbursement)	STATE FUNDS (Quarterly Payment)	FEDERAL FUNDS (for Reimbursement)	STATE FUNDS (Quarterly Payment)	FEDERAL FUNDS (for Reimbursement)	STATE FUNDS (Quarterly Payment)
	FISCAL YEAR 2005	\$2,781	\$2,268	\$54,277	\$29,612	\$6,353	\$26,563	\$63,411	\$58,443
	FISCAL YEAR 2006	\$4,484	\$10,846	\$3,391	\$2,948	\$908	\$1,352	\$8,783	\$15,146
	FISCAL YEAR 2007	\$19,881	\$12,178	\$1,553	\$2,108	\$596	\$760	\$22,030	\$15,046
	FISCAL YEAR 2008	\$17,579	\$19,872	\$3,941	\$19,169	\$155	\$666	\$21,675	\$39,707
	FISCAL YEAR 2009	\$12,234	\$10,096	\$6,513	\$8,852	\$0	\$965	\$18,747	\$19,913
	FISCAL YEAR 2010	\$2,597	\$2,733	\$1,523	\$1,715	\$0	\$0	\$4,120	\$4,448
	FISCAL YEAR 2011	\$4,835	\$1,396	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,835	\$1,396
	FISCAL YEAR 2012	\$0	\$19	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$19
	HAMPTON	\$0	\$0					\$0	\$0
	RICHMOND	\$0	\$0					\$0	\$0
F	VIRGINIA BEACH	\$0	\$0					\$0	\$0
Y	CHARLOTTESVILLE	\$0	\$0					\$0	\$0
2	BRIDGEWATER	\$0	\$0					\$0	\$0
0	HARRISONBURG	\$0	\$0					\$0	\$0
1	LYNCHBURG	\$0	\$75					\$0	\$75
3	DUMFRIES	\$0	\$0					\$0	\$0
	PURCELLVILLE	\$0	\$0					\$0	\$0
	BLACKSBURG	\$0	\$0					\$0	\$0
	COLONIAL HEIGHTS	\$0	\$0					\$0	\$0
	CHESAPEAKE	\$0	\$0					\$0	\$0
	NEWPORT NEWS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,689	\$0	\$1,689
	DANVILLE	\$0	\$0	\$800	\$2,427	\$0	\$0	\$800	\$2,427
	FY 2013 TOTALS	\$0	\$75	\$800	\$2,427	\$0	\$1,689	\$800	\$4,191
	TOTALS TO DATE	\$64,391	\$59,483	\$71,998	\$66,831	\$8,012	\$31,995	\$144,401	\$158,309
						TOTAL FEDERAL & STATE FUNDS			\$302,710
NOTES:									
1. Figures in thousands (1,000).									
2. Figures shown for FY13 and Previous Funding on Active Projects are based on allocations made in FY13 Program.									
3. Federal Funds are paid to localities on a reimbursable basis.									
4. State Funds provided to localities as Quarterly Payments and are to be used for state funded projects and/or for local match on Federally Funded Projects.									
5. Includes SAFETEA-LU and Local Partnership Funds									